



The O'Brien Institute for Public Health & the Department of Community Health Sciences Presents:

Dog politics and One Health promotion – rabies preparedness, free-roaming dogs and community wellbeing in remote northern Australia

Speaker: Chris Degeling

Friday, September 27, 2019 - 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.

G500 - Health Sciences Centre, 3330 Hospital Dr NW

With support from One Health Research Group, Veterinary Medicine, Chris Degeling will present a seminar on rabies preparedness, free-roaming dogs and community wellbeing in remote northern Australia.

Domestic dogs are numerous in northern Australia, where they are usually free-roaming and living in close human-dog relationships. In this talk we report on a series of studies that: (i) explore the causes and broader impacts of dog-overpopulation on these communities; and (ii) assess local capacity and preparedness for response to a rabies incursion from eastern Indonesia. Our research shows that in health promotion and protection practices, considering humans and dogs separately and in isolation from their shared social world, fails to capture important nuances and dimensions that have significant implications for human and animal health. Yet even as a One Health approach holds great promise, in some remote settings Western paradigms of ownership and responsibility must be amended to accommodate canine agency and interspecies reciprocity to better promote and protect health across 'more-than-human' communities.

Chris Degeling is Senior Fellow at the Australian Centre for Health Engagement, Evidence and Values, at the University of Wollongong, Australia. He is a social scientist specialising in empirical research in health. With a background in veterinary medicine and expertise in qualitative and deliberative methodologies, Chris' research focuses on the intersection of public health ethics, public health policy and emerging issues at the human-animal-ecosystem interface.

Chris will be speaking on behalf of Victoria Brookes who is a Senior Lecturer in Population Health at the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Charles Sturt University. Victoria is a veterinary epidemiologist with expertise in quantitative methods including disease modelling. Her research focuses on zoonoses and One Health, particularly in the context of the influence of human-animal interactions on disease spread.

Objectives:

1. Identify the benefits, burdens and risks of human cohabitation with free roaming domestic dogs in remote northern Australia.
2. Understand why sustainable dog population management in these setting requires a cross-sectoral response.
3. Describe the importance of social context to One Health approaches to health protection and promotion.

There will be a meet & greet lunch following the seminar in TRW2 Lounge.

This event is a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This seminar is also available via an online AdobeConnect session: To attend the seminar from another location via your computer, click on this link: <https://connectmeeting.ucalgary.ca/oiph-sep27-19/>



Enter as a guest. You may join the session at any time. It is advisable to test your audio before the seminar starts. The AdobeConnect session will be archived and accessible for later viewing at:

<https://www.obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/events/chsobrien-institute-seminar-series>